

By: Alvarado

H.B. No. 954

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an electronic application for voter registration and a ballot to be voted by mail.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 13.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.009. ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION. (a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to allow a person to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from the official website of this state. The websites of the secretary of state and the Department of Public Safety must also provide a link to the location of the application on the official website of this state.

(b) An applicant for electronic voter registration who has an unexpired driver's license or personal identification card issued in this state must:

(1) attest to the truth of the information provided on the application by affirmatively accepting the information as true; and

(2) affirmatively consent to the use of the signature on the applicant's driver's license or personal identification card for voter registration purposes.

(c) An applicant for electronic voter registration who does not have an unexpired driver's license or personal identification

1 card issued in this state must:

2 (1) attest to the truth of the information provided on
3 the application by affirmatively accepting the information as true;
4 and

5 (2) print a registration application from the website
6 the applicant is using to register, sign the application, and mail
7 it to the registrar.

8 (d) The program must allow an applicant to:

9 (1) indicate whether the applicant is eligible for a
10 ballot to be voted by mail; and

11 (2) if the applicant is eligible, complete an
12 application for a ballot to be voted by mail as part of the
13 registration process.

14 (e) For each application submitted under Subsection (b),
15 the program shall:

16 (1) require that a digital copy of the applicant's
17 signature be obtained from the Department of Public Safety; and

18 (2) compare the information provided by the applicant
19 against Department of Public Safety records.

20 (f) For each application submitted under Subsection (c),
21 the program shall provide the applicant with:

22 (1) a registration application that the applicant can
23 print from the registration website, sign, and mail to the
24 registrar as required under Subsection (c)(2); and

25 (2) information about how the applicant can obtain a
26 driver's license or personal identification card from the
27 Department of Public Safety.

1 (g) If the information submitted by an applicant under
2 Subsection (b) does not match Department of Public Safety records,
3 the program shall:

4 (1) notify the applicant that the application cannot
5 be processed electronically; and

6 (2) advise the applicant to print an application and
7 submit it to the voter registrar of the county in which the
8 applicant resides by mail or personal delivery.

9 (h) If the information submitted by an applicant under
10 Subsection (b) matches Department of Public Safety records, the
11 program shall forward the application to the registrar of the
12 county in which the applicant states that the applicant resides.

13 (i) On receipt of an application under Subsection (h), the
14 registrar shall review the application in accordance with Section
15 [13.071](#).

16 (j) The program must allow an applicant, at any time, to
17 print the application for completion and submission to the voter
18 registrar by mail or personal delivery.

19 (k) An application electronically submitted under this
20 section is considered for all purposes as an application submitted
21 by mail under this title.

22 (l) The secretary of state shall adopt rules as necessary to
23 implement this section, including rules to:

24 (1) provide for additional security measures
25 necessary to ensure the accuracy and integrity of applications
26 submitted electronically; and

27 (2) ensure that an application for a ballot to be voted

1 by mail that is submitted under this section is forwarded as soon as
2 possible to the appropriate early voting clerk.

3 (m) The rules adopted under Subsection (l) must require
4 that:

5 (1) the Internet website through which a person may
6 complete a voter registration application include a description of
7 the offense described by Section 13.007 in a conspicuous location
8 on the website near the place where the person begins or submits the
9 application; and

10 (2) the state electronic Internet portal project be
11 used to authenticate the identity of a person who submits an
12 application electronically under this section.

13 SECTION 2. Section 84.007(b), Election Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (b) An application must be submitted to the early voting
16 clerk by:

17 (1) mail;

18 (2) common or contract carrier; ~~or~~

19 (3) telephonic facsimile machine, if a machine is
20 available in the clerk's office; or

21 (4) electronic means under Section 13.009.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.